

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11889 261116Z

53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ACDA-05

OMB-01 /060 W

----- 077971

R 261004Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6894

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11889

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MORE REPORTED MNLF DEFECTIONS

1. PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 26 THAT "THIRD GROUP" OF MNLF LEADERS FROM BASILAN AND SULU UNDER "LEADERSHIP" OF COMMANDER MULFRID SANGKULA HAD SURRENDERED TO PRESIDENT. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS CARRIED TOUCHING EXCHANGE BETWEEN SANGKULA AND PRESIDENT MARCOS IN WHICH FORMER SAID HE WANTED HIS MEN TO MEET GREATEST FILIPINO REVOLUTIONARY, TO WHICH MARCOS REPLIED HE AND MUSLIMS WERE FIGHTING FOR SAME THING..... A "BETTER SOCIETY, DIMINUTION OF INJUSTICE, AND UTMOST AUTONOMY UNDER PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF REPUBLIC".

2. AT SAME TIME AS PRESS ACCOUNTS APPEARED, EMBASSY RECEIVED MALACANANG NEWS RELEASE DATED AUGUST 22 REPORTING THAT PRESIDENT HAD RECEIVED REBEL SURRENDER AUGUST 22, BUT MAKING NO REFERENCE TO SANGKULA. SURRENDEREES IN NEWS RELEASE WERE HEADED BY HADJI HUDAN ABUBAKAR, "CHAIRMAN" OF BASILAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF MNLF. IN NEWS RELEASE, IT IS ALLEGED THAT ABUBAKAR AND SEVERAL OTHERS RECEIVED TRAINING IN MALAYSIA -- AT  
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PAGE 02 MANILA 11889 261116Z

PULAO PANGKOR, PULAO BANGGI, AND IN KOTA BELOD, SABAH.

RELEASE CONCLUDES WITH EUPHORIC STATEMENT THAT 8,000 OF 16,000 FIGHTERS HAVE REJOINED FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER, AND THAT PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE OF SURRENDEREE LEADERS SUCH AS JUDGE LUCMAN, AL-HUESEIN CALAUANG "MARK BEGINNING OF TOTAL ISOLATION OF SELF-STYLED MNLF LEADER NUR MISUARI".

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME GOP PUBLICLY NAMED MALAYSIAN PENINSULA AS TRAINING AREA FOR MNLF. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS PRESUMABLY ESTOPPED FROM USING ALLEGATIONS, THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES.

4. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US DOES NOT SUGGEST LATEST BATCH OF SURRENDEREES IS HARDCORE MNLF. MOREOVER, SINCE THEIR LEADERS PROBABLY MORE POLITICAL THAN MILITARY TYPES, IT SEEMS DUBIOUS THAT THESE PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN MILITARY TRAINING IN MALAYSIA.

5. SURRENDER OF LATEST BATCH HELPS CONTRIBUTE TO IMPRESSION MARCOS ASSIDUOUSLY CULTIVATING THAT BALANCE OF POWER SWINGING TO HIM. WHILE HIS PSY WAR COULD HAVE SOME AFFECT ON THE FENCE SITTER, IT DOES NOT CUT INTO HARDCORE MNLF STRENGTH.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, RP, MNLF, (SANGKULA, MULFRID)  
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